

But God Who Is Rich In Mercy (Ephesians 2:1-10)

God interrupts our wrath.

Proposition: According to the council of scripture, every one of us, because of our sin and rebellion against God, are entitled to and encounter with the full measure of God's wrath. But by understanding the three gospel truths in this text concerning God's mercy, we can exchange annihilation for abundance; wrath for redemption; destruction for deliverance.

I. The Requirement of Mercy (Vs. 1-3)

- A. Because we are Dead (Vs. 1)
- B. Because we are Disobedient (Vs. 2-3a)
- C. Because we are Depraved (Vs. 3b)
- D. Because we are Doomed (Vs. 3c)

II. The Release of Mercy (Vs. 4-5b)

- A. An Abundant Release (Vs. 4b)
- B. An Affectionate Release (Vs. 4c)
- C. An Animating Release (Vs. 5a-b)

III. The Results of Mercy (Vs. 5c-10)

- A. A Resulting Deliverance (Vs. 5c)
- B. A Resulting Display (Vs. 6-9)
- C. A Resulting Duty (Vs. 10)

But God who is Rich in Mercy (Eph. 2:1-10) God interrupts our wrath. Not the wrath that we dispense but the wrath to which we are entitled. God interrupts the wrath that we so rightly deserve. The wrath which a four time murderer on the run from the law at Gonzales, Texas deserved in 1910. He ducked in to a Mercedean Ham tent meeting where Hamm was preaching on the "Cities of Refuge." While listening to the message the man was over come by the love and the mercy of God. So much so that in the middle of Hamm's message the criminal jumped up from his seat and shouted "Saved, Saved, Saved!" These words inspired Jack Scofield to write the memorable Hymn "Saved Saved Saved" The wrath of God that hung heavy over that man's life was interrupted by an outpouring of God's mercy. According to the counsel of Scripture every one of us because of our sin + rebellion against God are entitled

I. The Requirement of Mercy - Lam.

3:22 Tells us that "it is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed,..." "Truth be known, you are alive today and not

burning in a smoldering lake of fire because of God's

A. Because we are Dead - Spiritually dead. When it came to God and the things of God, our natural state is dead. Just as a dead physical body feels no pain, senses no need, and hears nothing said, so the lost sinner. Spiritually dead now, physically in line for death.

B. Because we are Disobedient - The reason for our deadness is because of our disobedience to God's law and will. God put Adam in Garden w/ one tree not to touch. Adam disobeyed. That disobedience is now passed down Rom 5:12. Till it manifests its self in full bloom in our life.

C. Because we are Depraved - not only disobey God but seek out that which is pleasing to self. Therefore they are wholly and completely incapable of pleasing God or meriting salvation from God. You don't have to read very far into the newspapers to see

D. Because we are Doomed - Children of wrath. A people whose inheritance is the unmitigated unreserved wrath of God. By deed the children of disobedience by nature the children of wrath. ⁽³⁾ Tr 3:18 He that believeth Judgment is passed only Mercy ⁽⁴⁾ slings us out.

II. The Release of Mercy - Things could not be darker for each and every one of us at this point, Dead, Disobedient, depraved, doomed. But I like the quote I read preparing for this message!

- 1) are entitled to and encounter with the full measure of God's wrath. But by understanding the three gospel truths in this text concerning God's mercy, we can exchange annihilation for abundance; wrath for redemption; destruction for deliverance.

- 2) ...to see to what depths of depravity man can sink to. How wicked and vile, estranged from God and destined for God's just and righteous punishment upon sin.

- 3) John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

- 4) What an awful contrition! Yet verse 3 says, "We all..." every one of us with out God interrupting in mercy and grace fit this horrifying condition! Thank god for "But God!"

1) Deuteronomy 7:7-8 The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, John Trapp said, "God loved them because he loved them. He chose them of his love, and then loved them for his choice.

2) ...spirit of God takes spiritually dead men, women, boys and girls and makes them alive. John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. This life is in union with Christ Jesus. We become part of his body. As your hand is attached to your body, Ephesians 5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

God's wrath comes by measure; His mercy w/o measure

A. An Abundant Release - In Rom 2:4

God has riches of Goodness!! In Eph 1:8 He has riches in glory, in Eph 1:7 He has riches of grace. But the most important is his abundant

riches of mercy. Mercy is to withhold something that we deserve. Every rank and sort of depraved sinner is a partaker of God's mercy. The blasphemer, liar, murderer, fornicator, all experience mercy.

B. An Affectionate Release - Where

does this mercy for sinful man come from. From the Love of God. We have no claim in his mercy. No stake in His grace. Yet God loved us and sent his Son

to die & pay the penalty of Sin. Why such love for us? The question of all questions? Deut 7:7-8 says "The Lord did not set

C. An Animating Release - Paul starts this whole chapter with this resurrection thought and announces it again here.

We were spiritually dead, but by the word of God and the Spirit of God we are made alive. Jesus raises 3 from dead, each time he spoke a word and life was wrought. Same is true the

Word of God, quick & powerful by spirit of

III. The Results of Mercy - Just like that murderer at Mordcai Ham meeting jumped up and shouted Saved Saved Saved as a result of

grace of God so to are the results in on
A. A Resulting Deliverance - "Saved"
It's a funny thing about that word saved.
Most of the time when you ask people about
that the Lord, they say oh I've been saved.
Saved from what, they stumped. Clearly
here we who were the inheritors of wrath, who
were guilty in violation of God's law, who were
cursed under its demands, who were dead, depraved.

B. A Resulting Display - I would
have been happy if he had just saved
me and set me aside. But it goes on raised
me, togethered me, heaved me, Jesused
me. Ps 113:7-8 He raiseth up the poor.
Why? Vs 7: He makes me a trophy
of his kindness, so that all the winners can
be awe struck by his ³ love mercy & grace. JC

C. A Resulting Duty - Vs 10 - Such
an amazing out pouring of Grace
and Mercy deserve a response
of allegiance & diligence. We are
not saved by our working. We are saved
into our working. Matt 5:16 says it
best: Let your light ³ shine before

IV. Closing - Ps 86:15 Micah 7:18
Mercy Mercy Gods love mercy
has saved both you you and me Oh
if we had gotten Justice we would

- 1) ...who were dead, depraved, and doomed to eternal destruction in the fires of of Hell are now delivered, snatched out of the jaws of torment, redeemed from certain judgment, a brand plucked from the burning. No wonder he shouted "Saved Saved Saved"
- 2) Psalms 113:7-8 He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill; That he may set him with princes, even with the princes of his people.
- 3) Back at temple we'd sing: I'm a trophy of grace a master piece of mercy nothing i've done could deserve his great love!
- 4) Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.
- 5) Psalms 86:15 But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.
Micah 7:18 Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.